

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-07 AID-05 ABF-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEA-01 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07
COME-00 DODE-00 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /117 W
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TO SECSTATE WAHHDC 4087

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AORG, UN, EGEN, ECOSOC

SUBJ: UN BUDGET - COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM AND COORDINATION:
ENVIRONEMENT

REF: STATE 133019 (NOTAL)

1. COMMITTEE SPENT DAY AND A HALF JUNE 9 AND 10 REVIEWING
ENVIRONEMENT PROGRAM IN PRESENCE OF UNEP EXDIR TOLBA. WHILE
SOME SHARP CRITICISM DEVELOPED OF PLAN TO TRANSFER SOME POSTS
FROM EXTRABUDGETARY FINANCING
TO REGULAR BUDGET, DISCUSSION WAS FREE OF THE ACRIMONIOUS
EXCHANGES WHICH MARKED TOLBA'S APPEARANCE LAST YEAR.

2. COMMITTEE COMMENDED UNEP EVALUATION AS BEST OF THOSE IT
HAD RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED REASONS FOR ITS SELECTIVE APPROACH;
NEVERTHELESS IT WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT ENTIRE UNEP WORK PROGRAM
WAS NOT EVALUATED. IT WAS REPEATEDLY NOTED THAT NO OVERALL
PICTURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ENTIRE UN SYSTEM,
WITH CORRESPONDING FINANCIAL INFORMATION, WAS
PRESENTED. THE INHERENT DIFFICULTY OF EVALUATING
BOTH LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO UNEP ACTIVITIES WAS
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CONCEDED.

3. THERE WAS SOME FEELING IN THE COMMITTEE THAT THE BALANCE
IN UNEP BETWEEN SMALL AND LARGE PROJECTS WAS NOT THE RIGHT
ONE, AND ALSO SOME CONCERN THAT UNEP WAS TRYING TO DO
TOO MUCH. TOLBA PROMISED A MORE CONCENTRATED
APPROACH IN THE FUTURE.

4. COMMITTEE VIEWS ON EACH OF THE SUB-PROGRAMS

EVALUATED TALLIED CLOSELY WITH OUR OWN (REFTEL). IN THE NATURAL DISASTERS FIELD, SEVERAL DELS OBSERVED THERE WAS STILL NOT ENOUGH CLARITY IN THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF UNEP AND UNDRO.

5. THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT IN THE COMMITTEE THAT UNEP HAD MADE MARKED PROGRESS IN PERFORMING ITS COORDINATION ROLE. HOWEVER, IT WAS STILL IMPEDED BY FACT THAT RESOURCES THROUGHOUT UN SYSTEM ARE STILL INADEQUATELY IDENTIFIED. THIS SITUATION COULD BE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE AS A RESULT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION BOARD'S WORK AND JOINT PROGRAMMING MECHANISM.

6. IN REVIEWING THE UNEP PROGRAM BUDGET, COMMITTEE'S MAJOR PREOCCUPATION WAS THE TRANSFER OF EXTRABUDGETARY POSTS TO THE REGULAR BUDGET WHICH CAUSED REAL GROWTH FOR BIENNIAL TO BE 8.4 PERCENT INSTEAD OF 0.4 PERCENT. TOLBA CAREFULLY WENT OVER ANTECEDENTS OF THIS PROBLEM, BUT COMMITTEE STUCK TO ITS VIEW EXPRESSED EARLIER IN DISCUSSION OF OPI PROGRAM THAT IT IS BAD PRACTICE TO PUT EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES IN REGULAR BUDGET, SINCE THIS COULD DISTORT PRIORITIES. HOWEVER, COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND THAT UNEP GROWTH IN FOR BIENNIAL BE NEAR AVERAGE INSTEAD OF WELL BELOW AVERAGE.

7. THERE WAS SOME CRITICISM OF TOP-HEAVINESS IN THE UNEP SECRETARIAT, AND OF FACT THAT TOO MANY RESOURCES WERE TAKEN UP BY ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS. TOLBA POINTED OUT THAT

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THE LARGE PERCENTAGE OF HIGH-LEVEL POSTS WAS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN CREDIBILITY IN DEALING WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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TAGS: AORG, EGEN, XX, UN, ECOSOC, UNEP
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